

I might also say, just to have no misunderstandings about this, that we are not going to oppose this legislation. The more information to the public, the better off we are, and if breaking it down from employer, employee side gives more information to the average citizen, more to it.

The only problem is that I did hear on the other side, as I was coming in, that the whole issue of true costs, then people will be able to figure out the real true costs, and obviously rate of return they are going to get but this really will not have any relevance to that because I have done a lot of studies on Social Security. And the fact of the matter is that right now the overhead costs on one's Social Security benefits, the money coming in and going out, is about 1 percent. We have done some studies, had some hearings in the Committee on Ways and Means, the Subcommittee on Social Security, and we find that actually the costs of maintenance, if one privatizes and actually invests in the private market, is about 20 percent, because there are fund managers and all of that, and we are not going to put that on that W-2 form because that would be too much trouble. Then once there are the aggregate benefits in the trust fund and one is ready to retire then they have to amortize the account. That will cost another 20 percent. So we are talking anywhere from 35, 40, maybe even 45 percent, in terms of the overall cost if the Social Security system is privatized; whereas the overall cost is 1 percent in terms of the current Social Security system.

So this does not give anybody any comparison. Again, as I said, the more information the better off we are and so we are not going to oppose this.

Just in conclusion, it would be my hope that we begin to focus on the real issue of Social Security, is that how do we deal over the next 35 years with the fact that we are going to have a 25 to 30 percent shortfall in the Social Security system? That is a big issue, and we need, on a bipartisan basis, to come up with a solution to that, because that is going to hit us much sooner than we expected. The reality is that we cannot leave the uncertainty in the system that we currently have.

□ 1130

Mr. Speaker, I urge a yea vote on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to just remind my colleagues that we are trying to put sunshine on the issue, and it was a Republican Congress that started this by making the Social Security Administration report at all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) for closing.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, just to make sure there is no misunderstanding between us and our colleague

from California, currently a W-2 form does not require the employer's share to be reported, so the W-2 form only lists the employee's share.

What this legislation will require is that on the W-2 form, both the employer and the employee's share of the FICA tax will be listed. This will allow employees to fully understand the true cost of their employment. This is a process that a number of people have already taken steps toward; that this is good government. Hundreds of companies are doing this. The State of Michigan has added this in.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the other side of the aisle for encouraging a "yes" vote in support of this.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1264.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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ALFRED RASCON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4430) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11831 Scaggsville Road in Fulton, Maryland, as the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4430

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ALFRED RASCON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8926 Baltimore Street in Savage, Maryland, and known as the Savage Post Office, shall be known and designated as the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4430.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just last week we began what today evolves into a 3-day process of considering and ultimately passing a number of pieces of legislation designed to extend the honor of the naming of a postal facility after what we like to believe and, in fact, do firmly believe are very deserving Americans.

I stated yesterday on the floor of this House that we owe our thanks on the subcommittee to people like the ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), and his staff for their efforts, but also to those Members from across the country who I think do such an admirable job in searching out and bringing to us the names of individuals who do, indeed, deserve this particular honor.

It is interesting to me that while all of them are very, very special individuals, they are all very unique. Today, for example, as we consider the first of what we all hope will be four such initiatives, we see the uniqueness of each individual and each nominee that is represented in all of the four bills.

Today, I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) for leading us down the right path in that regard.

As the Clerk designated, Mr. Speaker, this legislation was introduced on May 11 of 2000 and seeks to name the postal facility located at 11831 Scaggsville Road in Fulton, Maryland, as the Alfred Rascon Post Office Building.

Mr. Rascon is a very special individual for a number of different reasons, Mr. Speaker, not the least of which is the very successful life that he has led, coming to this country as he did from his birthplace in Chihuahua, Mexico, and ultimately accruing in this, his new homeland, a remarkable record of bravery and of citizenship. In fact, Mr. Rascon was just recently awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts as well as the serious injuries he received during his tour of duty in South Vietnam where the record that I have had the honor and the privilege of reading speaks very clearly about his valor, about his courage on behalf of his fellow soldiers and his wounded squad members in his attempts to save their lives.

We do have the main sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), with us, so I do not want to go on at great lengths and take away from both the time and, of course, the substance of his comments.

So, Mr. Speaker, with a final word of appreciation to the gentleman from Maryland and a final word of appreciate to a very special man in Mr. Rascon, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4430 for the naming of this post office.

Also, to speak in general in terms of the post office naming bills that are in front of us today which I hope will receive positive support here on the House floor. Three of these four have met the committee requirement for complete delegation sponsorship. One has not, but will be the subject of some dialogue, I am sure, about that. But nonetheless, all honor very worthy Americans.

The gentleman that this bill would seek to name a post office in honor of is someone who has served our country well. Even though born in Mexico, he served in the Armed Forces, was seriously wounded, and is still serving our government in the selective service system. We are going to hear more about him from the prime sponsor; but as for my side of the aisle, we fully support this legislation and hope that it receives the support that will ensure its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), who, as I mentioned before, is the lead sponsor and author of this particular legislation.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4430, which renames the post office in Savage, Maryland, after one of my constituents, Mr. Alfred Rascon. Mr. Rascon received the Congressional Medal of Honor on February 8 of this year for his gallantry during the Vietnam War. He served as a Specialist 4 medic to a reconnaissance platoon in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. On March 13, 1966, Mr. Rascon's platoon came under heavy fire from a numerically superior force while moving to reinforce another battalion. Disregarding his own safety, Mr. Rascon ran to assist his fellow soldiers under heavy enemy fire. He was wounded numerous times, fell on fellow soldiers three separate times to shield them from heavy machine gun and grenade attacks with his own body, and yet, continued to search for more wounded comrades to assist. He later refused aid for himself or to be evacuated and continued to provide assistance to his fellow soldiers.

The paperwork for Mr. Rascon's original recommendation for the Congressional Medal of Honor was lost in the Pentagon and was only recognized recently due to the efforts of members of his platoon who testify to this day that they are alive only because of Mr. Rascon's heroism. I was pleased to assist in remediating this problem, and I am pleased to pay him tribute now by naming the post office in Savage, Maryland, in his honor.

I would like to thank Mr. Rascon and his wife for being here with us in the gallery today. I thank them very much more honoring us with their presence.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a world today where role models for our children abuse drugs, break the law, or act totally out of self-interest. It is men like

Alfred Rascon who show us what role models are supposed to be. He regarded the lives of his comrades as more important than his own and acted totally out of his care for them. Even after being wounded, he did not stop seeking to help them. He considered his own life as forfeit and completely sacrificed himself. He did not seek attention when his paperwork was lost in the Pentagon, nor did he seek that this post office be renamed for him. Indeed, in no way has he ever tried to glorify himself or take credit for his actions. His friends and those whose lives he saved had to bring to light the fact that his heroism had gone unrewarded by his country.

We must constantly remind ourselves and educate our children that we are privileged to live in the greatest and most free country on earth only because of the service and sacrifices of brave individuals such as Alfred Rascon. Our country can never truly reward these men or those like him who have sacrificed so much for us. The only thing we can do is to never forget them. Naming this post office after him is one very small way to ensure that we never forget his extraordinary heroism or that of many like him who have fought, bled and died for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the Hispanic Caucus and the Maryland delegation who co-sponsored this bill with me. I would also like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), the chairman of the subcommittee, for expediting this bill's consideration.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) to speak on this important legislation.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) designating the Alfred Rascon Post Office Building. It is difficult to talk briefly about a man who has done so much in the service of his country, so I think I want to begin by making just a few comments about the man, Al Rascon.

Al represents all of those tenets that the founders of this Nation set forth for our country. He was born in Mexico, grew up and attended high school in California, and enlisted in the United States Army. He completed training as a medic and served in Vietnam. During his tour of duty, he was seriously injured during an operation with his reconnaissance platoon. Because of his injuries, he was discharged from active duty and was placed in the Army Reserves. As most of my colleagues know, because of his heroic efforts earlier this year, he received this Nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor.

However, Al Rascon is not a hero only because of his actions on the battlefield 24 years ago. He is a hero because he has continuously given of

himself to his community and to his country. In addition to his military service, he has served honorably as a government civil servant with the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and currently serves as Inspector General of the Selective Service. Beyond his government service, he has dedicated himself to working with our youth, to show them that there are opportunities in this country for those who are willing to work and work hard.

Earlier this year, Al Rascon brought that very message to high school students in my district of El Paso, Texas; and it was overwhelmingly well received by our young people.

So today, I urge each of my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation. This is a small tribute to a man who has given so much for his country.

□ 1145

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I reiterate that not only did this gentleman serve and provide extraordinary relief to a number of his colleagues during his tour of duty in Vietnam, but his continued service, both with the Drug Enforcement Administration and with the INS and now with the Selective Service, shows a continuing commitment to be a citizen of our country that is committed to providing public service.

I want to just say that of the 40-some thousand Post Offices in our country, very few are named in honor of anyone, but this is a gentleman who not only do we honor, but I think we honor ourselves by naming this Post Office in Maryland in his honor.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in honoring a very special American, Alfred Rascon.

I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, and the gentleman from New York, Chairman MCHUGH, for bringing this measure to the floor today.

I was honored to participate in the White House ceremony earlier this year when Alfred Rascon was presented with the Medal of Honor. I can't think of a more deserving person to receive the Medal of Honor than Alfred Rascon. Each and every American should be deeply proud of this veteran, a true and authentic American hero.

Alfred Rascon waited well over thirty years to receive this highest of all distinctions.

Alfred Rascon's bravery and courage on the battlefields of Vietnam should have brought this honor to him much sooner.

The ceremony at the White House was one of the most emotional and moving events I have ever witnessed in my entire life.

Bestowing this special distinction upon this American hero was long overdue, and the honor we bestow upon Alfred Rascon today is both fitting and proper.

Earlier this year, following the White House event honoring Alfred Rascon, I introduced legislation that will bring honor and distinction to America's most highly decorated veterans. As a veteran of the 101st and 82nd Airborne

Divisions, I was surprised to learn that the Medal of Honor, awarded to our veterans in the Nation's highest honor for their heroic efforts, is made primarily of brass. Congress awards its own gold medal to distinguished Americans, and this medal costs as much as \$30,000, and is made of gold. My legislation, H.R. 3584, would replace the brass in the Congressional Medal of Honor we award to America's brave Americans with gold. The Congressional Budget Office has indicated my bill would cost only \$2,300 per medal. I don't think that's too high of a price to pay for our most heroic Americans.

Many of the recipients of the Medal of Honor already paid the ultimate price for our Nation and for our freedoms and liberty.

We need to remember our veterans and think about them every day. There are more than 25 million veterans in the United States. There are 2,700,000 veterans living in California.

Today, I invite my colleagues who honor and respect America's veterans to join with me in honoring Alfred Rascon by supporting H.R. 4430, the measure to name the Alfred Rascon Post Office, and by supporting my bill for a more fitting Medal of Honor, H.R. 3584.

Once again, I wish to thank my colleagues for this opportunity. This is an honorable recognition for a highly honorable and courageous American, Alfred Rascon.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4430, to rename the United States Post Office in Fulton, Maryland, as the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building". As a recent recipient of the Medal of Honor, there is no one more deserving of this honor than Alfred Rascon.

Alfred Rascon is an American hero who holds a special place in the hearts of Hispanic-Americans. An immigrant from Mexico, Rascon enlisted in the Army at age 17 because he wanted to serve his adopted homeland.

Mr. Rascon, who served as a medic in Vietnam, braved machine gun fire and grenade blasts to treat wounded soldiers. He twice jumped on top of wounded soldiers to protect them from grenades. In so doing, Rascon was shot in the hip and wounded by shrapnel when a grenade exploded in his face. Despite his injuries, Rascon grabbed guns and ammunition to give to U.S. soldiers so they could continue holding off the attack. His patriotism and courage are an inspiration for all Americans.

Although Rascon was immediately recommended for the Medal of Honor, his paperwork was never forwarded up the chain of command. Instead, he received the Army's second most prestigious award, the Silver Star. In 1993, his fellow soldiers learned that he was never awarded the Medal of Honor and petitioned the Army Decorations Board to consider the case. Finally, in November of 1999, after more than 30 years of waiting, Defense Secretary Cohen approved Rascon for the Medal of Honor. I was extremely proud to be present at the White House ceremony in February when Mr. Rascon was presented this award.

Alfred Rascon now lives in Laurel, Maryland with his wife and two children. Naming the Post Office in this community after Mr. Rascon is a fitting honor and will remind the residents of Laurel of his extreme courage and patriotism and will serve as an example for future generations.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this fitting tribute to our nation's newest Hispanic Medal of Honor winner, Alfred Rascon. Naming a post office building is reserved for those rare individuals who have distinguished themselves not only in one event, but through a career of service and excellence. Mr. Rascon is one such individual, who waited 33 years to receive the nation's highest medal for bravery on the battlefield. But during those years, he did not stop in his effort to serve his colleagues and his country. He currently serves as the Inspector General for the Selective Service System.

On March 16, 1966, while his platoon was under intense fire from a North Vietnamese unit in South Vietnam, SP4 Rascon risked his own life repeatedly to save the lives of wounded comrades and to prevent his unit from being overrun. While seriously wounded three times, he managed to perform his duties as a medic and save the lives of two of his fellow soldiers. On two separate incidents, he used his body as a shield to protect the wounded from the full force of incoming enemy grenades. Ignoring his own serious wounds from the grenades, he also managed to protect with his body another wounded soldier from incoming machine gun fire and grenades and carry that soldier, who was much larger than himself, to safety.

Mr. Rascon also risked his own life to help save his unit. Witnesses testify that he retrieved an M-60 machine gun and its ammunition, under fire in an open enemy trail, that was abandoned by an evacuated soldier. This act alone helped save the lives of the platoon members who were in danger of being overrun by the enemy. In addition to this and despite the fact that he was severely wounded, SP4 Rascon continued to search out the wounded and aid them. When the enemy was routed, he then supervised the evacuation of the wounded, refusing medical attention to himself until he finally collapsed. His wounds were so extensive that he had to be medically discharged from the Army.

While his acts of bravery as an Army medic in Vietnam have been recounted on several occasions, it serves as a reminder of the lesson we seek to instill in our children and all our citizens in all facets of life: never leave those who fall behind.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4430, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read:

"A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8926 Baltimore Street in Savage, Maryland, as the 'Alfred Rascon Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MATTHEW "MACK" ROBINSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4157) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4157

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MATTHEW 'MACK' ROBINSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, shall be known and designated as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, one of the true privileges and frankly more enjoyable aspects of serving as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Service is the opportunity that it provides I would hope all of us, but certainly, speaking on my own behalf, provides me to learn.

I think I am rather typical in terms of the average American who has heard many times over in his or her life about such great athletes as Jesse Owens, and as one of the giants of baseball, we have heard of Jackie Robinson. But I must confess, until very recently, I was not as familiar with a second Robinson, a gentleman by the name of Matthew "Mack" Robinson.

We have heard, of course, about the achievements of people such as those I have just mentioned. When we talk about Jackie Robinson, we talk about history. When we talk about "Mack" Robinson, we talk a bit less about history but a great deal about what made this country great, what made it special. That is simply through the contributions of people like "Mack" Robinson.

I would say that when it comes to achievements of athleticism, "Mack" has to take a back seat to very few people. He was a participant, along